

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or added terms are shown with underscoring. Also, please add new claims 13 -19 as shown below. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended). A ~~cleaning apparatus for~~ a nozzle having a slit-like discharge opening in a lower end thereof and a cleaning apparatus for the nozzle, the cleaning apparatus comprising:

a cleaning tank containing a cleaning liquid; and

a cylindrical long-length brush which is disposed in the cleaning liquid within said cleaning tank so that a longitudinal axis of said brush is parallel to said slit-like discharge opening,

wherein a length of said long-length brush is substantially the same as a length of said nozzle, and said brush is rotatable around the longitudinal axis thereof and can be reciprocated in a horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and also in a vertical direction.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus ~~for a~~ and nozzle according to claim 1, wherein a hair structure of the long-length brush is arranged obliquely with respect to the longitudinal axis of the brush such that the hair structure contacts ~~with~~ the lower end of the nozzle to be cleaned in an oblique direction.

Claim 3 (withdrawn). A cleaning apparatus for a nozzle having a slit-like discharge opening in a lower end thereof, comprising:

a cleaning tank containing a cleaning liquid; and

two cylindrical long-length brushes which are disposed in the cleaning liquid within said cleaning tank so that longitudinal axes of said brushes are parallel to the slit-like discharge

opening,

wherein said two long-length brushes are located in a positions where hair structures thereof are in contact with each other so as to sandwich the lower end of said nozzle therebetween, and

wherein a length of each long-length brush is substantially the same as a length of said nozzle, and each brush is rotatable around the longitudinal axis thereof and can be reciprocated in a horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and also in a vertical direction.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus ~~for a~~ and nozzle according to claim 1, further comprising a brush cleaning means for scraping a material attached to the long-length brush, provided within the cleaning tank.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus ~~for a~~ and nozzle according to claim 2, further comprising a brush cleaning means for scraping a material attached to the long-length brush, provided within the cleaning tank.

Claim 6(withdrawn). The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3, further comprising a brush cleaning means for scraping a material attached to the long-length brush, provided within the cleaning tank.

Claim 7 (withdrawn). The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3, wherein a hair structure of the long-length brush is arranged obliquely with respect to the longitudinal axis of the brush such that the hair structure contacts with the lower end of the nozzle to be cleaned in an oblique direction.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus ~~for a~~ and nozzle according to claim 1,

further comprising a mechanism which moves said long-length brush in the horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the brush and another mechanism which moves the long-length brush in the vertical direction.

Claim 9 (withdrawn). The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3, further comprising a mechanism which moves each said long-length brush in the horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the brush and another mechanism which moves the long-length brush in the vertical direction.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus ~~for a~~ and nozzle according to claim 1 further comprising a comb provided within the cleaning tank which scrapes material attached to the long-length brush as it rotates.

Claim 11 (currently amended). The cleaning apparatus ~~for a~~ and nozzle according to claim 2 further comprising a comb provided within the cleaning tank which scrapes material attached to the long-length brush as it rotates.

Claim 12 (withdrawn). The cleaning apparatus for a nozzle according to claim 3 further comprising a comb provided within the cleaning tank which scrapes material attached to the long-length brush as it rotates.

Claim 13 (new). The cleaning apparatus and nozzle according to claim 1, wherein a hair structure of the long-length brush is arranged obliquely with respect to both the longitudinal axis of the brush and the circumferential direction of the brush such that the hair structure contacts the lower end of the nozzle to be cleaned in an oblique direction.

Claim 14 (new). The cleaning apparatus and nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the nozzle is adapted to discharge a coating solution onto a semiconductor wafer.

Claim 15 (new). A cleaning apparatus for a nozzle having a slit-like discharge opening in a lower end thereof, the cleaning apparatus comprising:

a cleaning tank containing a cleaning liquid and having an open upper end adapted to receive the lower end of the nozzle therein; and

a cylindrical long-length brush which is disposed in the cleaning liquid within said cleaning tank so that a longitudinal axis of said brush is parallel to said slit-like discharge opening when the lower end of the nozzle is received in the cleaning tank,

wherein a length of said long-length brush is substantially the same as a length of said nozzle, and said brush is rotatable around the longitudinal axis thereof and can be reciprocated in a horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and also in a vertical direction.

Claim 16 (new). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a hair structure of the long-length brush is arranged obliquely with respect to the longitudinal axis of the brush such that the hair structure contacts the lower end of the nozzle to be cleaned in an oblique direction when the lower end of the nozzle is received in the cleaning tank.

Claim 17 (new). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a brush cleaning means for scraping a material attached to the long-length brush, provided within the cleaning tank.

Claim 18 (new). The cleaning apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a mechanism which moves said long-length brush in the horizontal direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the brush and another mechanism which moves the long-length brush in the

vertical direction.

Claim 19 (new).        The cleaning apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a comb provided within the cleaning tank which scrapes material attached to the long-length brush as it rotates.